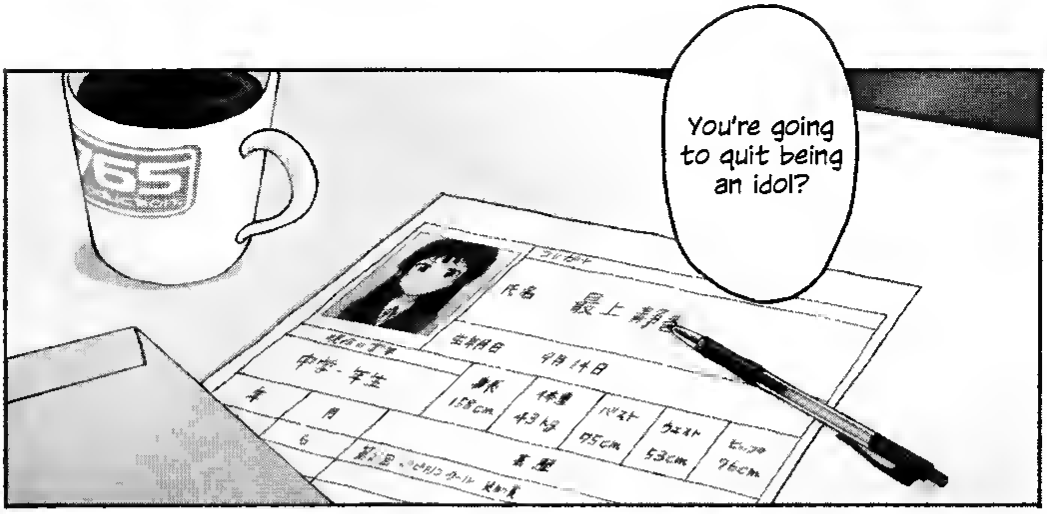
Is Shizuka singing again?
Yes. Even when she goes to bed, she doesn't let go of that toy mic.

1

Ha

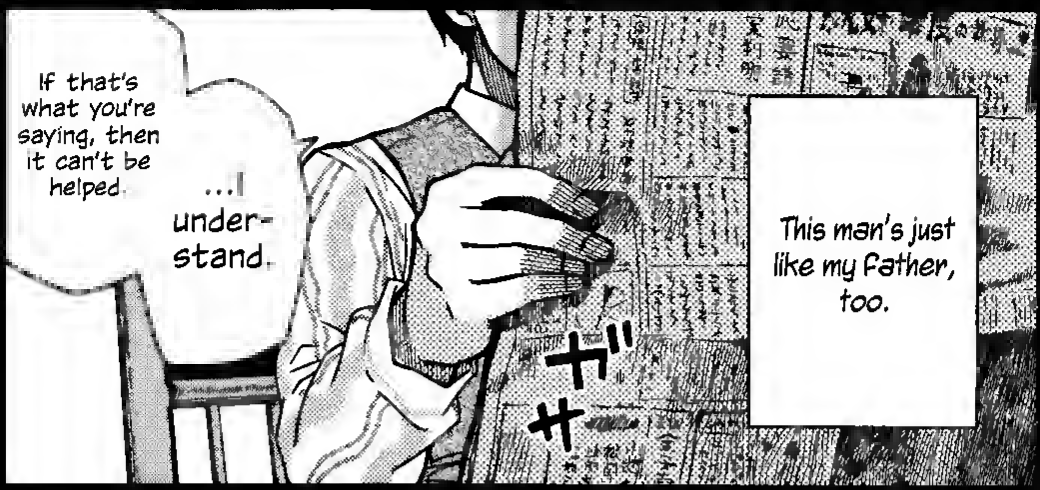

You're going to quit being an idol?

That's a long way off, though, isn't it?
Yes. I intend to quit once my high school entrance exams begin.
You're a first-year in middle school, aren't you?
This isn't something you need to tell me on the day you join the office.

I thought it would have been cowardly to keep quiet about it.
It's already been decided.

I have only one dream...to become an idol.
As for me quitting... that's a promise I made with my father.
Then, can you tell me your reason?
Is there another dream you'd like to fulfill in the future?
And that's why
I only have a little time to aim for top idol.
I don't have any room for detours!
Please lend me your help!

Producer.
Then...
Alright, I understand.
ポン
But let's put that aside for now.
It's not good for you to hurry and push yourself too hard,
and your parents might even change their minds when that time comes!
You're young! Whatever it is, don't think of it as a detour- I want you to give it a shot and have fun doing it!
Let's work together and do our best, one step at a time!
ギュ
Ah...


If that's what you're saying, then it can't be helped.
...I understand.
This man's just like my father, too.

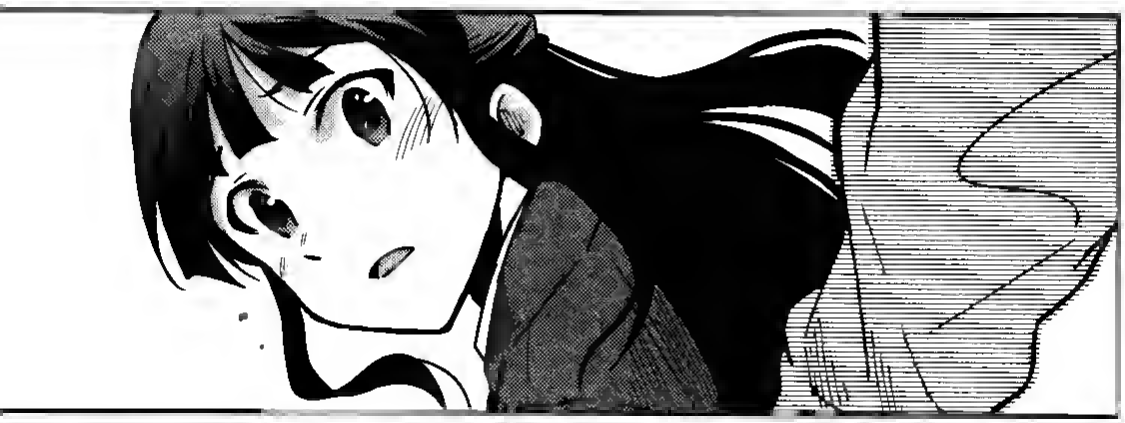
However, only until your entrance exams.
After that, you have to quit.
Thank you! This...this is like a dream come true!
R-Really!? Dad!
You'll let me become an idol!?

You're still in middle school, so it can't be helped if you want to play.
Enjoy yourself while you have the time.

...eh?
Why...

Haa-
I'm serious about this!
Haa-
Why...
Why don't they understand?

I have to keep running forward to reach my dream...
Even if I have to do it alone!
I have to run...



Mirai...
Haa
I finally caught up with you.
Shizuka-chan...

I-I'm sorry.
Umm...my stomach was hurting.
ゴシ
Ah,
Why were you running away~?
I was calling out to you that whole time.

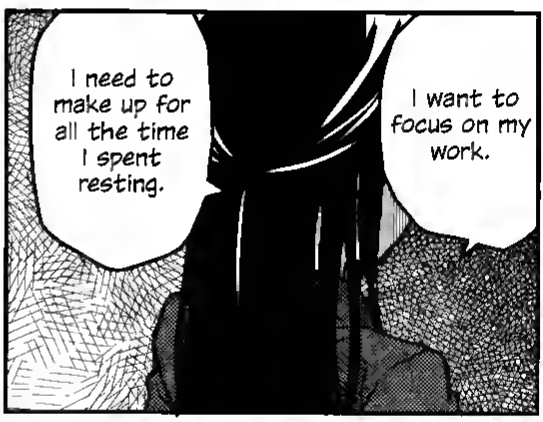
Oh, I see.
Thank goodness.
But I think I'm already feeling better.
ニコ

Yeah!
I want to try doing more live performances ♬
are you going to accept it? And perform at the festival?
...about that request,
キュ
キュ
ゴ
Shizuka-chan, let's go onstage together!
Hey, about that!
The stage!
I see.

Shizuka-chan?
Come on, please?
Eh~ why~!? I want to sing with you more than anyone else, Shizuka-chan~
I'll pass.
You need to take responsiblity and do it yourself, Mirai.

I said I'm not doing it.
Hmph.

Shizuka-chan...
You really are angry at me, aren't you?


I need to make up for all the time I spent resting.
I want to focus on my work.

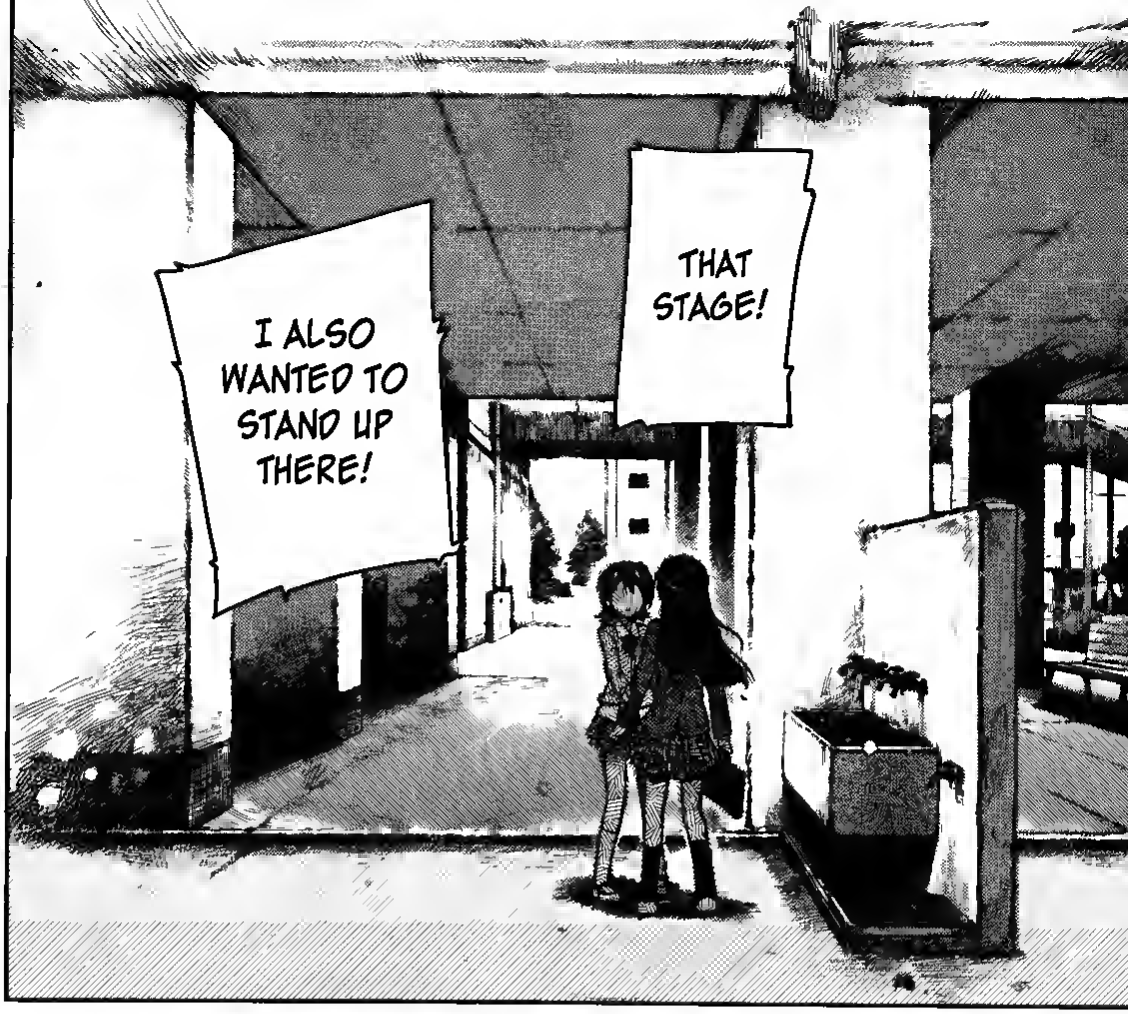
12

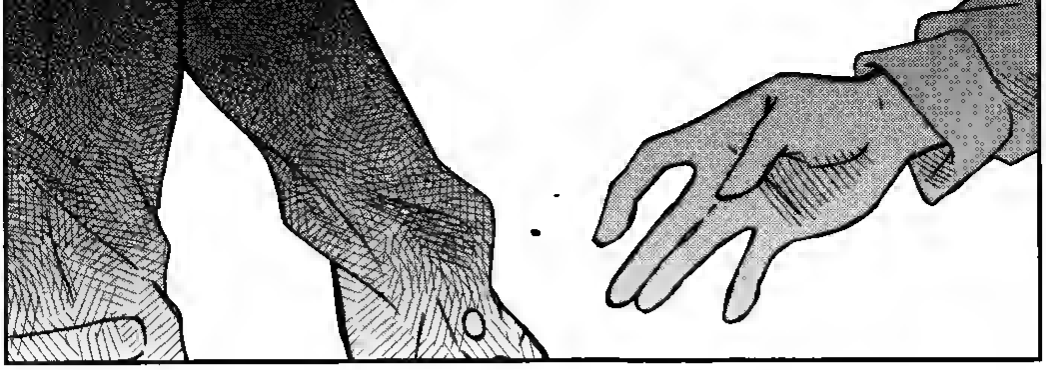
If there's anything I did, then I...
Hey?
You were acting like that before, too.
Then look at me.
I'm not angry at you.

Knock it off already...

Mirai, you can do whatever you want.
But it's not like I can just do as I will.
I can't do every little thing that I like.

Even...that stage...
I don't have that kind of time.
I can't just stand still.


THAT STAGE!
I ALSO WANTED TO STAND UP THERE!

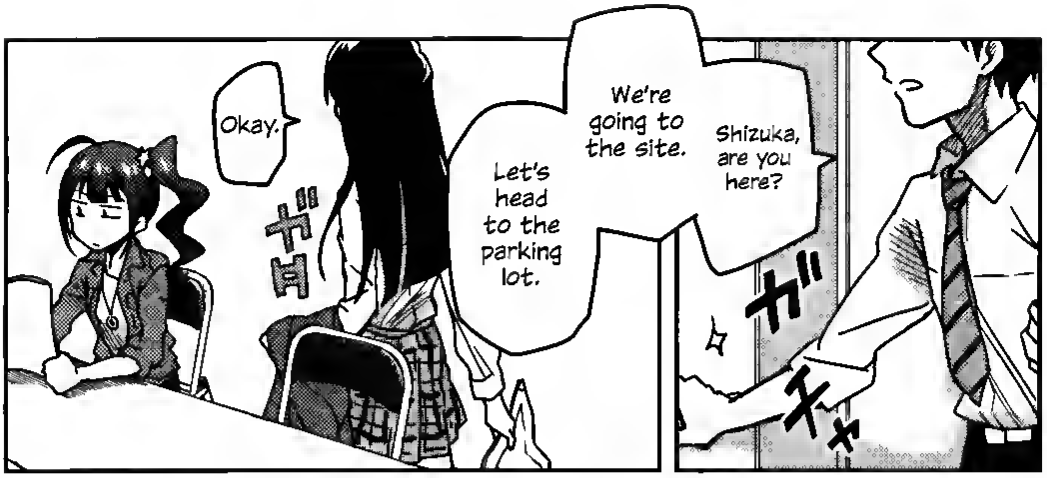


It...it was my fault for not paying attention to my health.
it wasn't your fault, Mirai.
Ah... wait,
ahaha
Th-That's right. I'm sorry.
I went up there in your place, Shizu-ka-chan...

15

I-It looks like I'm still not back to my usual self yet.
Sorry.. please forget what I said.
I'll see you tomorrow.

……
What's with this atmo-sphere?

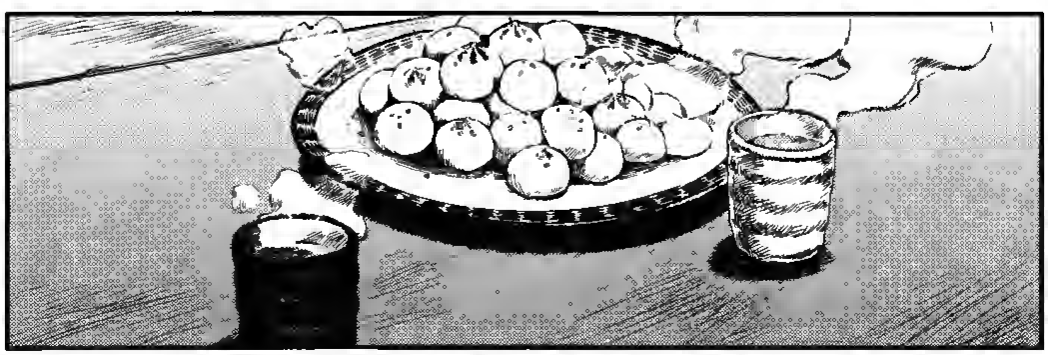

Shizuka, are you here?
We're going to the site.
Let's head to the parking lot.
Okay.

Phew..

Hey, Mirai, did something happen?
Fueh~?
No, not "Fueh~?" Did you get into a fight with Shizuka?
That tension just now was making my shoulders stiff.
Also, you got a moustache from your drink.

ポ
ゴ

Minako!
Help me out here!
W-What do I do about this!?
Th-There, there. It was rough! It was rough, wasn't it! I under-stand!
Ohh there, there
AAH
ぼ
3
Uuu
Aah
ぼ
3
ぼ
3



I don't really understand, but...
probably.
Shizuka-chan's angry because she wasn't happy with your performance, Mirai-chan?
...so basically,

Hmm...
Are you sure there's not another reason?
I know, right?
Would Shizuka really get that angry because of something like that?

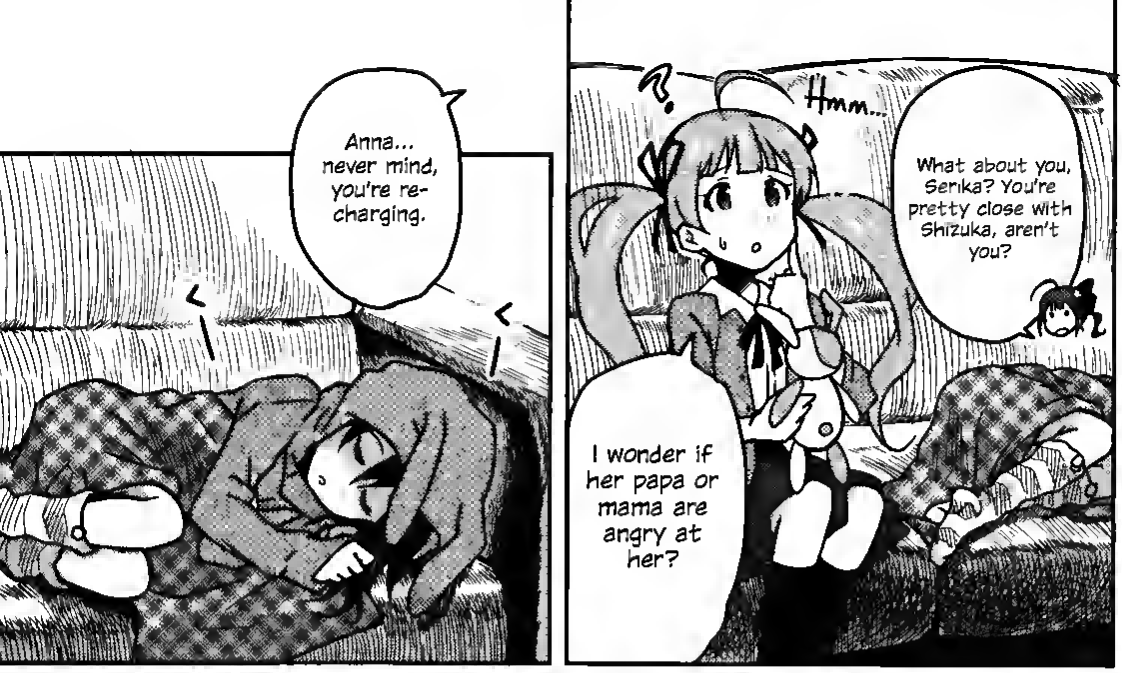
because Shizuka-chan just hates me now?
I wonder if it's

If that's not it, then...

とーはー

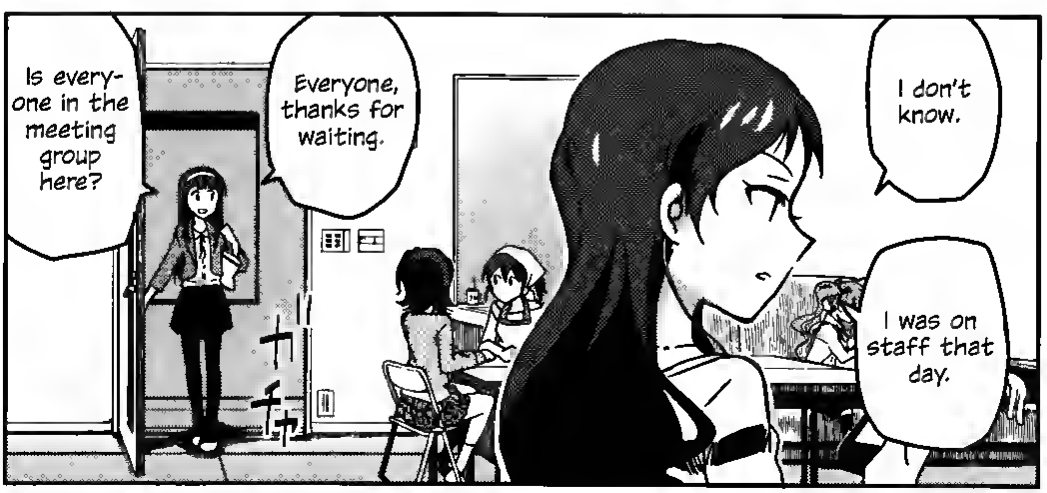
Okay, Mirai-chan. Look over here.
Minakooo.
ずびっ
ポロ

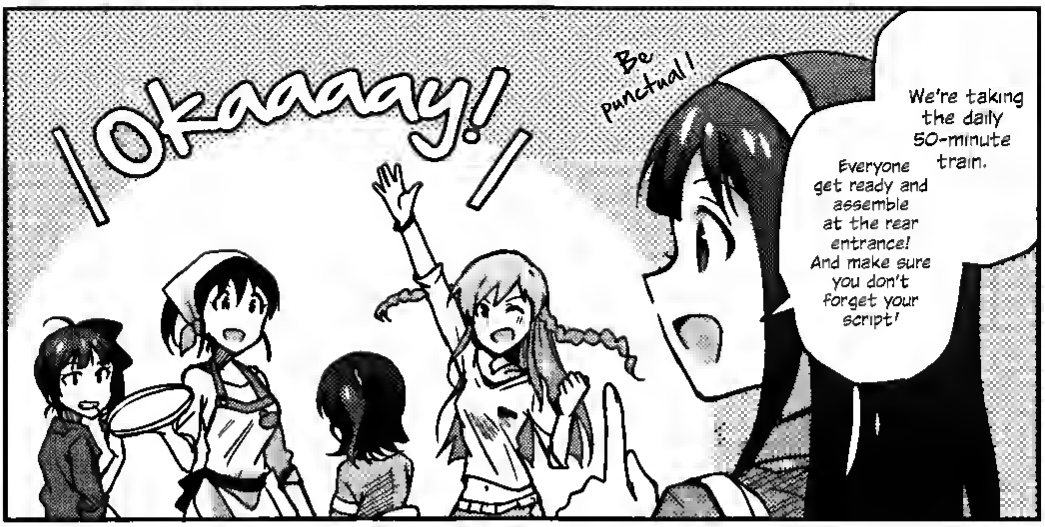
Yeah! It's super-delicious!
Minako-chan's a genius!
もぐもぐ
...it sure is. Eat up.
Umi, do you get it?
So Mirai has no idea what's going on, but it's not like any of us understand either.

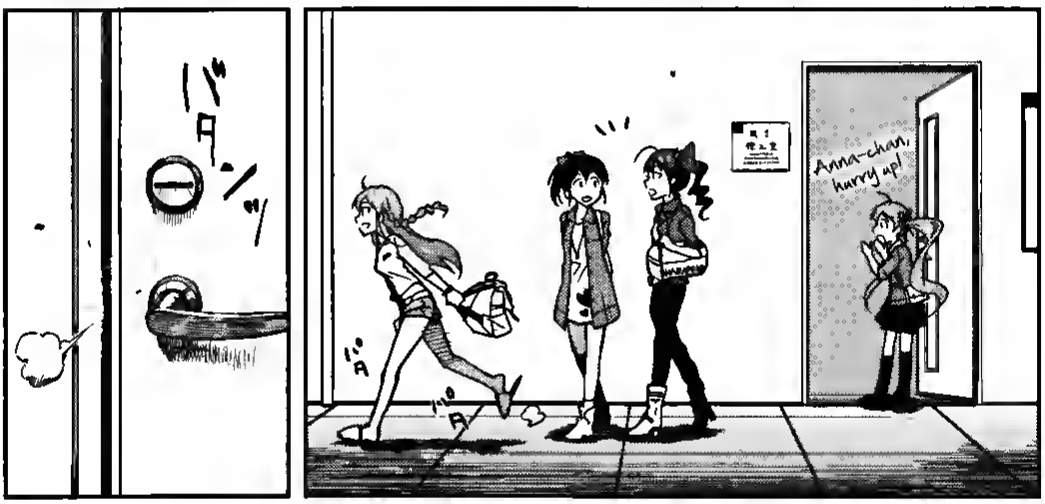

Anna... never mind, you're re-charging.
Hmm...
What about you, Serika? You're pretty close with Shizuka, aren't you?
I wonder if her papa or mama are angry at her?

Then... What about you, Shiho?
Isn't there anything you noticed when you saw Shizuka?

21


Is everyone in the meeting group here?
Everyone, thanks for waiting.
I don't know.
I was on staff that day.


Okaaaaay!
Be punctual!
We're taking the daily 50-minute train.
Everyone get ready and assemble at the rear entrance! And make sure you don't forget your script!


バタン
Anna-chan, hurry up!

……

That Shizuka's angry because she's unhappy with your stage performance?
Is that what you really think?
...really?
In itself?
Then isn't that just the reason in itself?
Shizuka-chan said she wanted to stand on-stage.
Yeah...
...eh?
23
So she must be disappointed in me, I think...
.....
But Shizuka-chan told me to do my best onstage...
And that's why I was able to sing.

Certainly,
you might spend your whole life
unable to understand the way Shizuka thinks.

?
Everyone has their own way of thinking...
But...isn't that okay?
My whole life!?

24

And how would I understand what's going through other people's heads?
Just call me Shiho. I don't really like it when you add "-chan" to my name. We're the same age, aren't we?
Sh-Shiho-chan, do you understand?
How Shizuka-chan feels?

...but,
that's why...it's good that she said it directly.
That she wanted to stand on stage.
?

That stage!
I also wanted to stand up there!
.....

25

But she said she wasn't going to perform at the cultural festival.
I don't really understand what Shiho said...
So what could it be?
You got a minute?
Mirai!
Toilets
Producer-san?

Look at this.
Well, no~ I still haven't made any progress on that end, but...
Serika, welcome back.
Mirai-san, you're in a very good mood.
Were you able to make up with Shizuka-san?

26

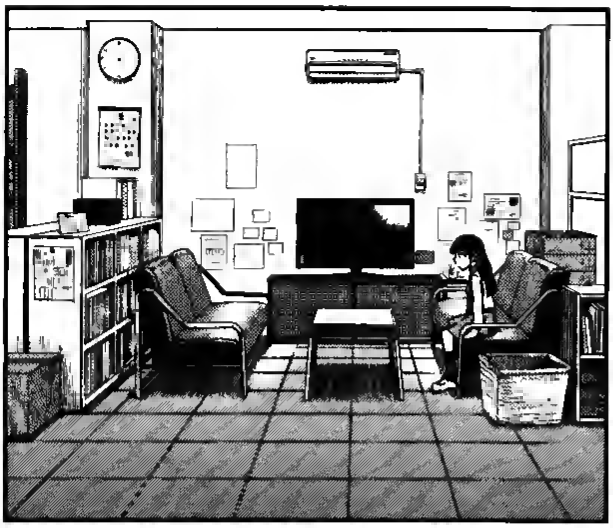
If you're that happy about a small envelope, it must be something really important.
A salary?
Producer-san gave this to me as a special bonus for my performance during the live.
This is the first time I've ever gotten a salary in my life! I'm so happy!

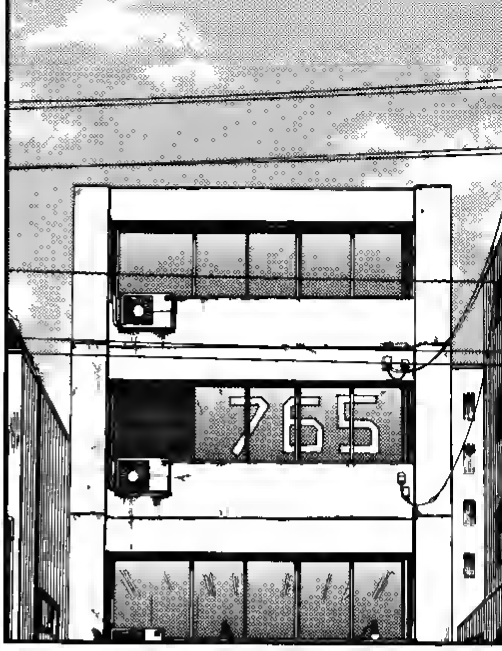
Ah!
Listen, okay? A salary is the money that you get from wor...
Geez, Serika, you really don't know anything, do you~

You have to let go of it, fast!
M-Mirai-san, what's wrong!?
Could it be because of the salary!?
Please calm down!
AHH!
AHH!

Serika! Let's go to the office right now!
That's right, work! Shizuka-chan's a professional idol, after all!
?
?

Mi-
Mirai-san, pull yourself together!
Uooo!
Ha-

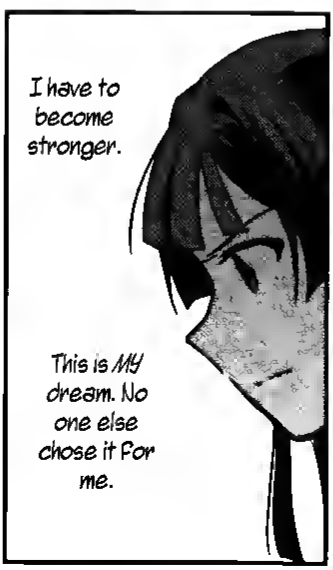



765

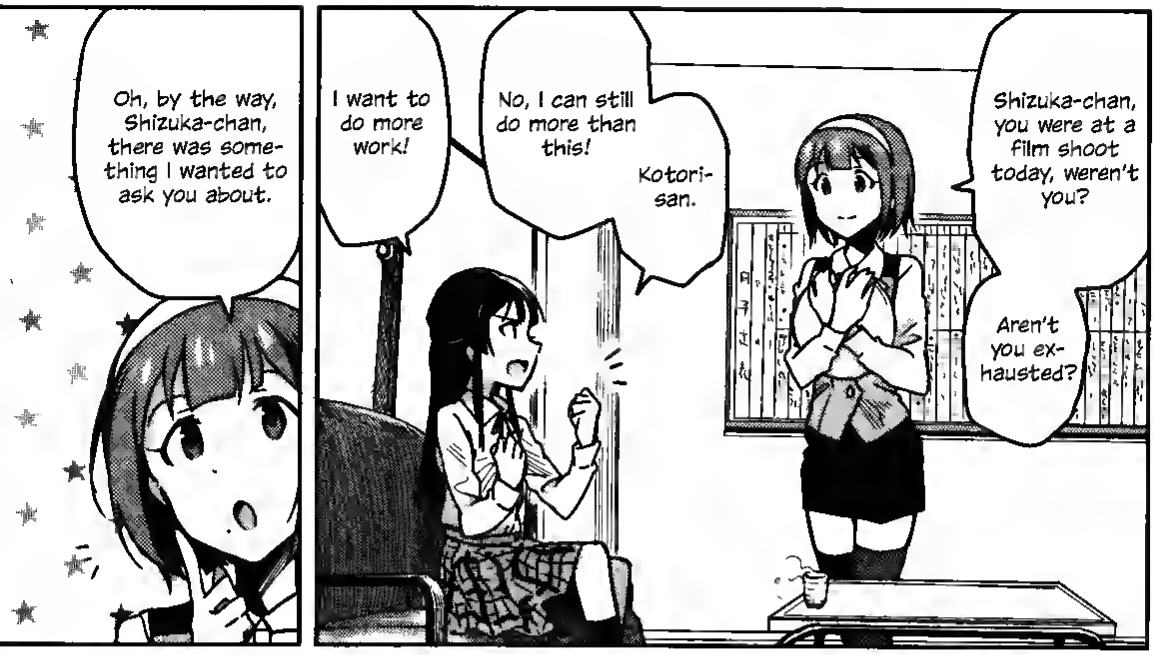
I'm the worst...

28

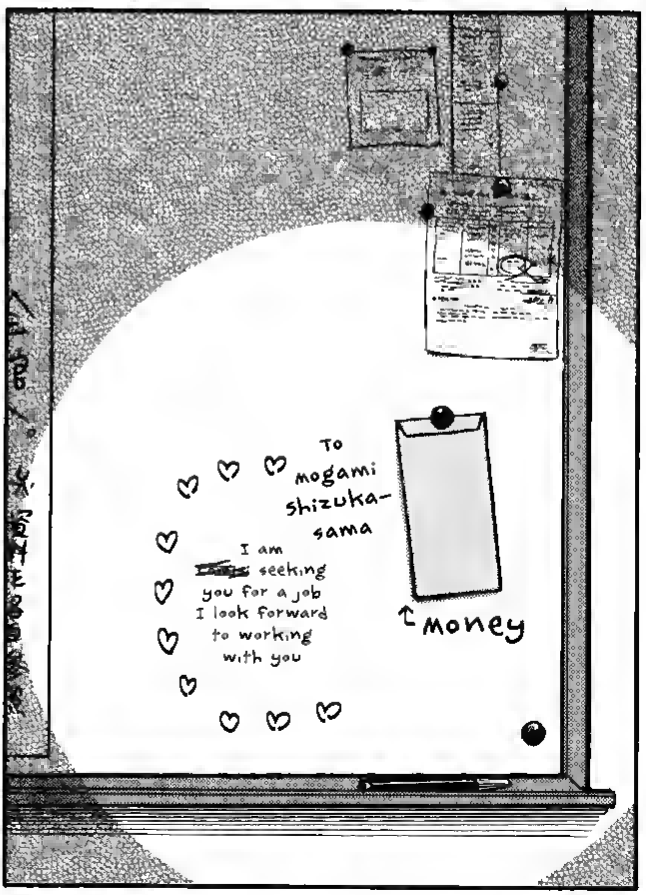
Here.
コト

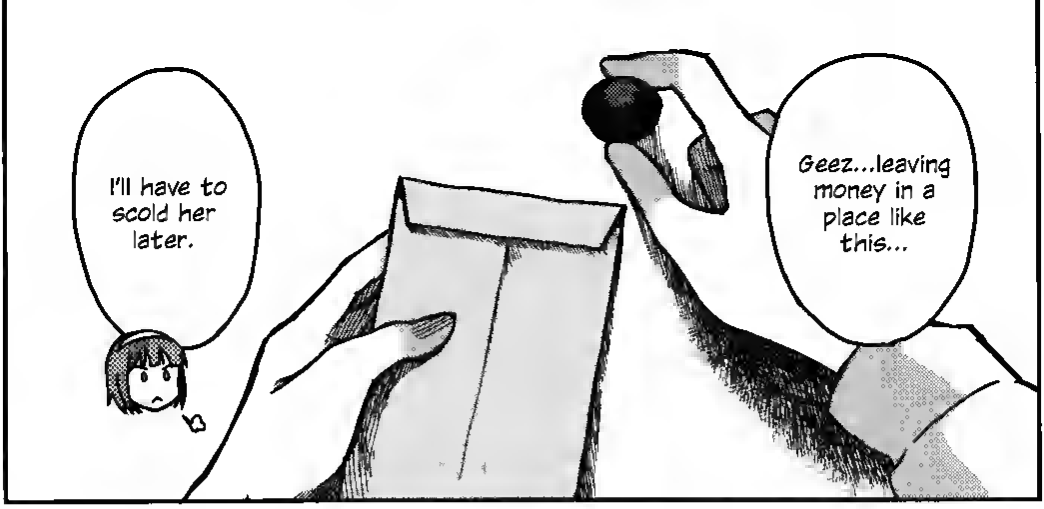

I have to become stronger.
This is MY dream. No one else chose it for me.

Mirai has nothing to do with my father, and yet...
I lashed out at her like that.


Oh, by the way, Shizuka-chan, there was something I wanted to ask you about.
I want to do more work!
No, I can still do more than this!
Kotori-san.
Shizuka-chan, you were at a film shoot today, weren't you?
Aren't you exhausted?

...what is this?
I really have no idea~
Could this be one of Tamaki-chan's pranks?


To mogami shizuka-sama
I am [redacted] seeking you for a job I look forward to working with you
money


I'll have to scold her later.
Geez...leaving money in a place like this...

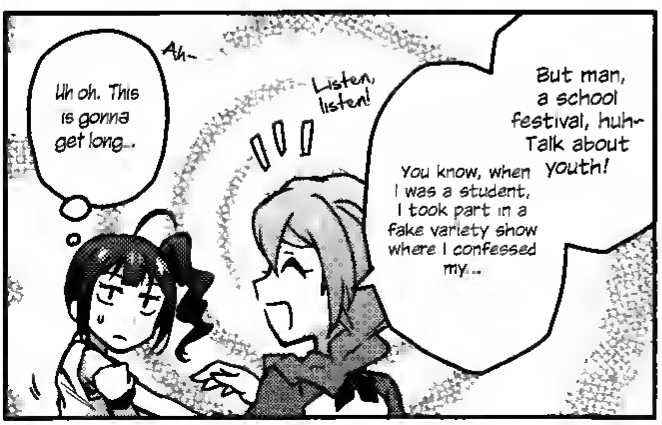
You made an offer to Shizuka-chan to perform onstage at the cultural festival!?

It would be great if this could help you make up with Shizuka-san!
Hmm...
Well, if it went through Kotori-san, then there shouldn't be a problem.
Yes! Shizuka-chan's a professional idol, after all!
You young sters
What, you two are still fighting?

It...
It was the first time in my life that I had ever seen anything like that.
I want to make up with her too, but...
It's also about that stage.

A stage for Shizuka-chan to stand on...
And Shizuka-chan was the one who brought me there,
so this time I want to make something for her.

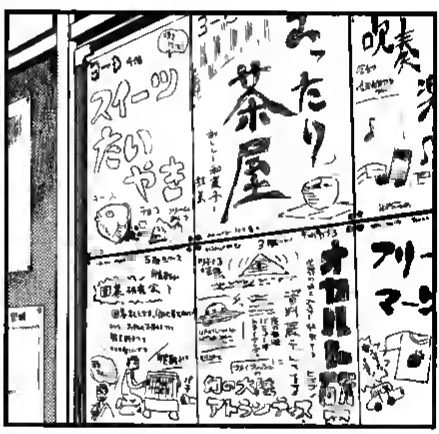
31


Uh oh. This is gonna get long...
Ah-
Listen, listen!
But man, a school festival, huh- Talk about youth!
You know, when I was a student, I took part in a fake variety show where I confessed my...

I see.

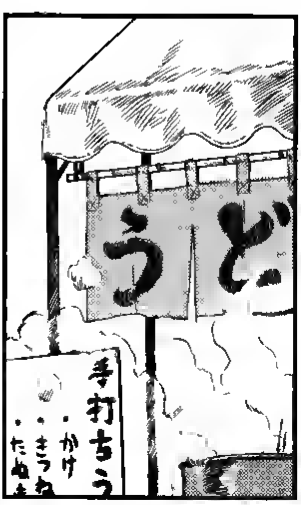
水月祭
WELCOME
ENJ
お化け屋敷

肝だめし
肝だめし入口

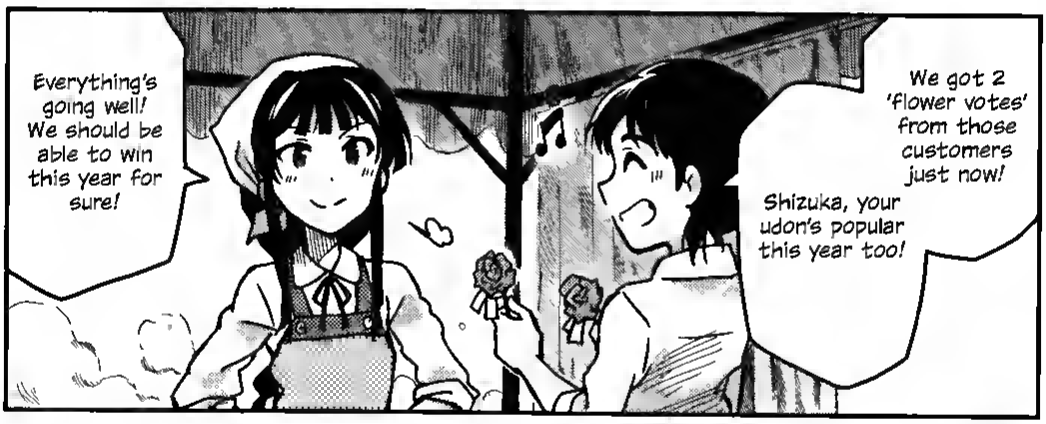

茶屋
スイーツ
たい焼き
オカルト研究会
アトランティス

32

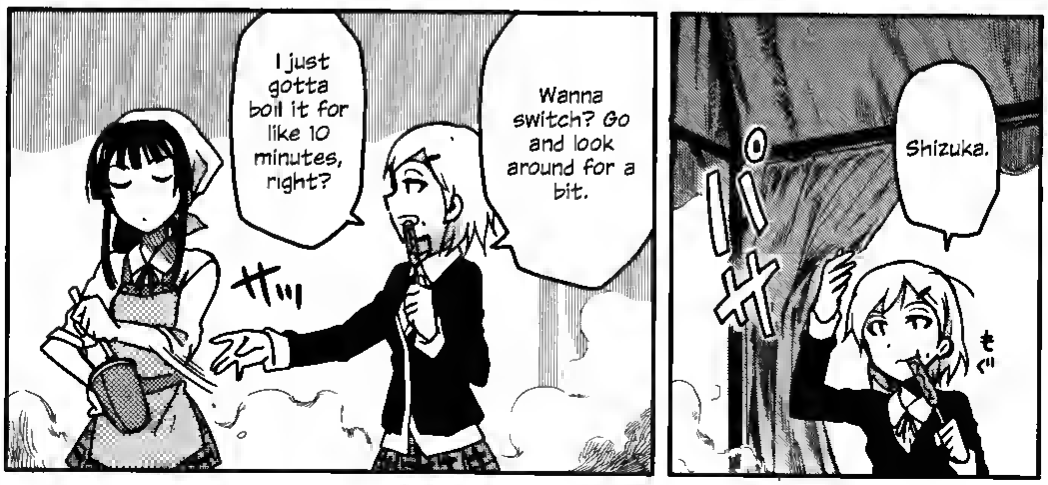
I'll have one Kit-sune.
Shizuka!
I'll get the Wakame.
Kitsune and Wakame, please!

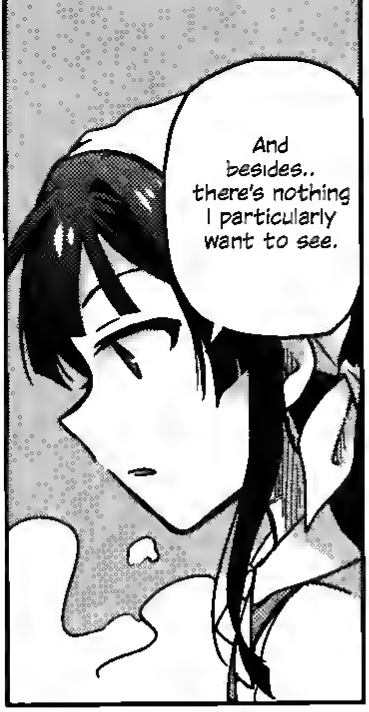

うど
手打ちう

Ta-dah!
一票
Okay!

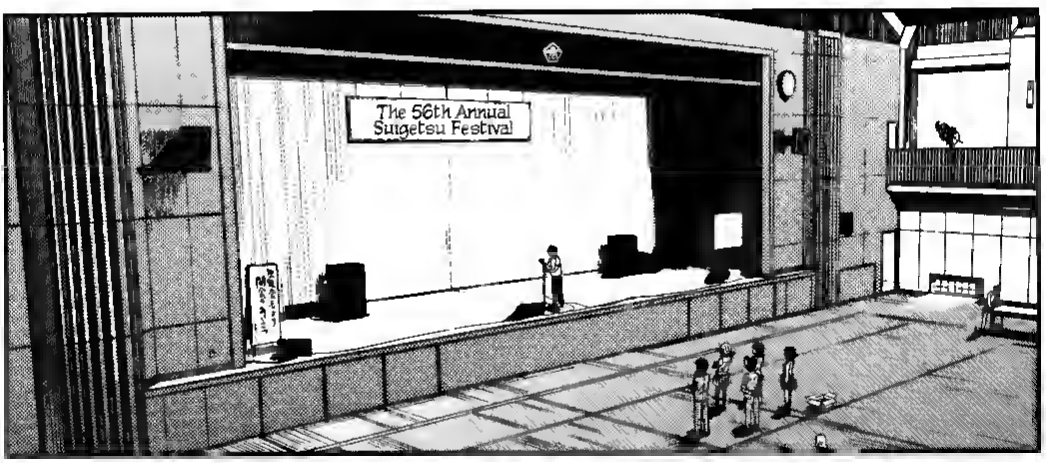

Everything's going well! We should be able to win this year for sure!
We got 2 'flower votes' from those customers just now!
Shizuka, your udon's popular this year too!

33


I just gotta boil it for like 10 minutes, right?
Wanna switch? Go and look around for a bit.
Shizuka.
ハナ
もぐ


And besides.. there's nothing I particularly want to see.

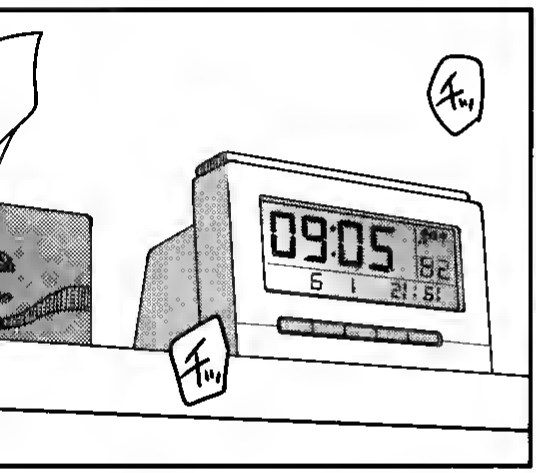
Ah, I see...
The udon is a living being. If you listen carefully, you can hear its voice.
This is the one job that I can't entrust to anyone else.


The 56th Annual Suigetsu Festival

34

Okay! Chairman-san!
And you'll be the last performer of the day! I'm counting on you!
It's finally here, Kasuga!
We'll start off with the students' performances.

I made sure to make the request at the office!
Yeah! It's a secret guest!
I cannot!
C...Can't you tell me who it is?
B-By the way, is that person really going to come?
765 Pro's guest...?
ドキ
ドキ


09:05

So...
She'll definitely come.

35

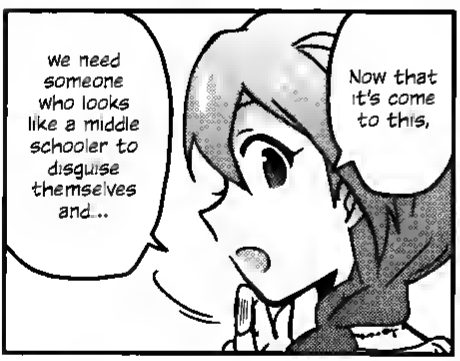
That's all you've been saying this whole time...
Shizuka-chan is stubborn, so...
Haa...
If I remember correctly, Mirai-chan and her friends have their cultural festival today, right?
Hmmm...
If you're that concerned, why don't you go and see for yourself?
Were those two able to make up?

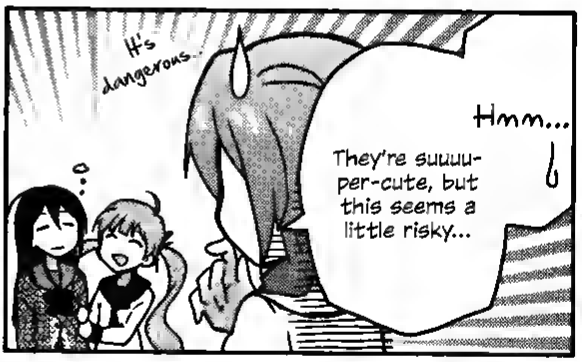
In that case, I can go!
I'm a first-year in middle school, after all.
Here!
Back in my day, we
Yeah, about that? They said the only people who can go to the cultural festival aside from the students' guardians are other middle schoolers in the area.
What a rough world we live in.

I'm not going.
Why me?
Shiho-chan, you're a middle schooler too, so you can go as well!
Serika-chan!
That's right! That's a good idea!

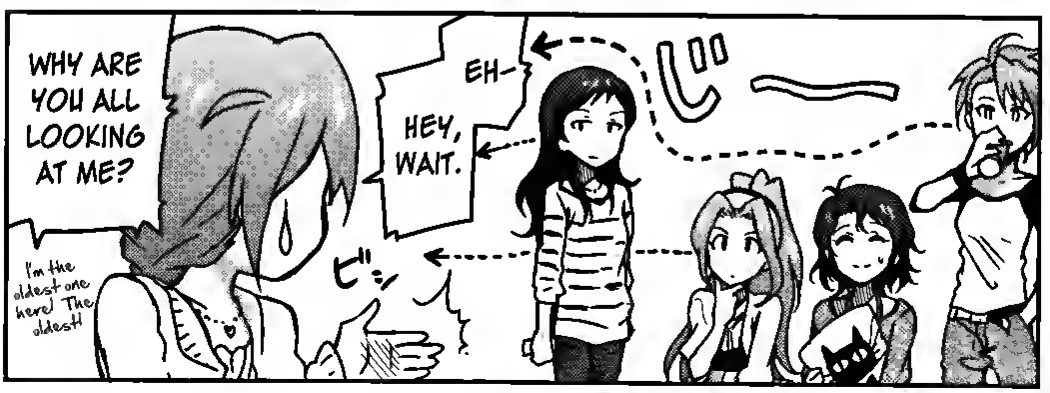
...sure, okay?
.....
Anna-chan, how about we go together?
Okay?

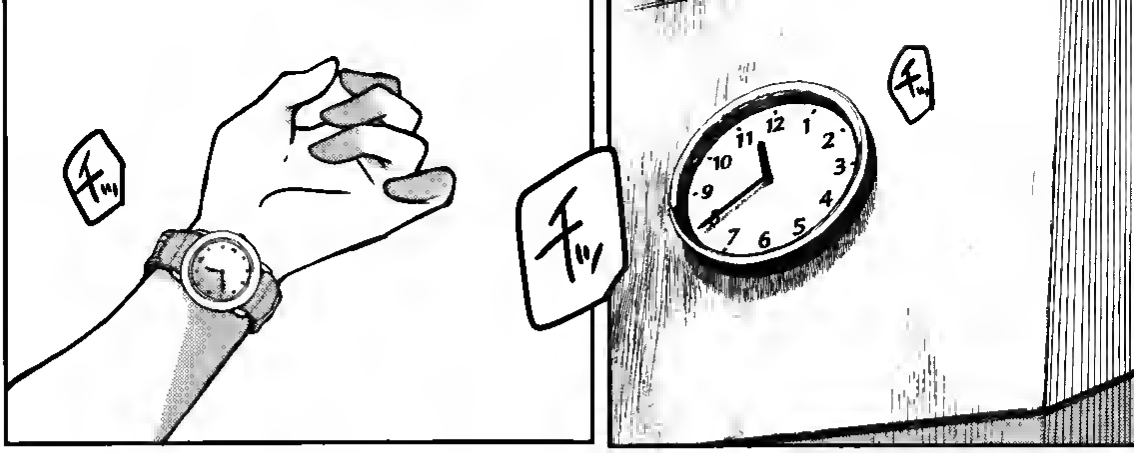
ちょ


We need someone who looks like a middle schooler to disguise themselves and...
Now that it's come to this,


It's dangerous...
Hmm...
They're suuuu-per-cute, but this seems a little risky...

37


WHY ARE YOU ALL LOOKING AT ME?
I'm the oldest one here! The oldest!
HEY, WAIT.
EH-
ビシ
じ～



38

Minako Satake

Age: 18
Birthday: March 22nd
Blood type: O
Height: 158 cm
Weight: 45 kg
Three sizes: 86-54-82
Hobbies: Fighting games
Skill: Cooking
Likes: Talking on the phone with friends

Umi Kousaka

Age: 16
Birthday: August 10th
Blood type: O
Height: 155 cm
Weight: 45 kg
Three sizes: 82-57-84
Hobbies: Rock climbing
Skill: Posing Naturally
Likes: Dancing